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As an appreciation of the work done and inspiration of work to be done, this book should bring forth much effort in its field, particularly where it is greatly needed—the rural communities.

Contemporary American History. By CHARLES A. BEARD. New York: Macmillan, 1914. 8vo, pp. vii+397. \$1.50.

Contemporary American History was written for the purpose of supplying the apparent need of a textbook embracing the leading events in American history between the Civil War and the year 1914.

Of his work, the author says: "I have made no attempt to present an artistically balanced account of the last thirty-five years, but have sought rather to furnish a background for the leading issues of current politics and to enlist the interest of the student in the history of the most wonderful period of American development." With this purpose in view he confines himself to the history of several leading movements and issues and omits all mention of events not connected with them.

The first movement discussed is restoration of the white dominion in the South amid the chaotic condition brought about by the enfranchisement of the negro. Next is given the economic revolution which occurred in the first years following the war, the leading events of which were the remarkable growth of capital, the development of the West, and the economic reconstruction of the South. A significant movement was the revolution in politics and law during the early part of this period. The author points out the change in leadership in politics from that of the old-school type of Clay and Webster to that of Conkling and Platt; these new leaders, it is said, changed the alignment of politics from purely political issues to issues affecting capital. The most important and suggestive change in the realm of law was the growth and establishment of judicial review of legislation in the various states.

Other important movements were the various political struggles centering around party issues, important federal legislation, and the growing conflict between capital and labor with its attendant problems. The period marked by the war with Spain is discussed under the topic "Imperialism," and is considered from that viewpoint. The administrations of Roosevelt and Taft and the campaign of 1912 are discussed with considerable detail.

The principal value of the work is that the author, in a single volume, has given the essence of the movements which are indicative of the current of history during the period.

Social Work in London 1869-1912. A History of the Charity Organization Society. By HELEN BOSANQUET. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1914. 8vo, pp. x+409. \$3.00.

The problems of a community are often most clearly seen from the records of some organization which played its part in meeting and solving them.

Through the Charity Organization Society, the author of this comprehensive survey of the social work done in London records for us the growth of public opinion and the gradual awakening of London to the poverty, crime, and degradation within its gates. The situation was that of a "poor law administered in such a way as to aggravate the evil, and a host of philanthropic societies and individuals confused and helpless before the demands made upon them." It was then evident that something was needed to bring all the workers and the poor together. In response to this need the Charity Organization Society was formed. The growth of the society is the story of the way "these pioneers fastened upon one weak spot after another," and of how "neither failure nor success deterred them from a persistent return to the policy in which they believed."

From its earliest efforts "to prevent pauperism and crime in the metropolis" the society came finally to attack such problems as housing and sanitation, care of defectives, medical charities, assistance of children, pensions, winter distress, and even the problem of saving. Its work was not accomplished without opposition, for the policy of the society was not one that gave it general popularity. Its insistence on investigation and on the limitation of relief to the worthy brought upon it the severe denunciations from the undeserving. There was, moreover, the common criticism of exorbitant salaries. But in spite of opposition, the growth of the organization has been steady and sure.

Besides tracing the historical development and present scope of the Charity Organization Society, this study furnishes detailed information with regard to the technicalities of organization and the machinery of administration. The introduction of more case material would have given greater interest to the book.

Émile Durkheim's Contributions to Sociological Theory. By CHARLES ELMER GEHLKE. (Columbia University Studies, LXIII, No. 1.) New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1915. \$1.50.

In this study Dr. Gehlke gives us an interesting presentation of the essentials of Durkheim's sociological theory. A summary and interpretation of this system ought to prove of considerable value to English-speaking readers, especially as the material it presents can otherwise only be found scattered throughout a number of different books and pamphlets.

In Durkheim is revealed the psychological sociologist *par excellence*, and his system follows logically out of a psychological premise. In the individual mind a sensation is produced by the interaction of brain cells; then images, concepts, and ideas are formed by further interaction and combination. In the social mind these individual ideas combine to form social representations which in turn fuse into representations of a higher and more social kind. The phenomena or social facts thus produced are ways of acting, thinking, and feeling, with power of coercing the individual; and, so far as